

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /063 W

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R 311245Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1203

INFO USUN NEW YORK 733

S E C R E T TUNIS 7792

DEPT PASS AFRICAN POSTS AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, TS

SUBJECT:ANGOLA: TUNISIA HOLDING LINE AGAINST RECOGNITION
OF MPLA

REF: STATE 303313, TUNIS 7661, 7609

1. EMBOFF ASKED AMERICAN DIVISION CHIEF, MOFA, DECEMBER 29 WHETHER ANY CHANGE HAD OCCURRED IN GOT POSITION VIS A VIS ANGOLA SITUATION SJBSEQUENT TO OUR MOST RECENT CONTACT (TUNIS 7609). AFTER CONSULTING HIS SUPERIORS MOFA OFFICER INFORMED EMBOFF DECEMBER 30 THAT WITH RESPECT TO ANGOLA ITSELF THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE (I.E., GOT HAS NOT TAKEN DECISION TO RECOGNIZE MPLA). HOWEVER, WITH RESPECT TO GOT ATTENDANCE AT OAU EXTRAORDINARY SESSION IN JANUARY, MOFA OFFICER SAID PRESENT GOT POSITION IS THAT GOT WILL NOT ATTEND "UNLESS THERE IS A CHANGE IN EXTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES."

2. COMMENT: MOFA HAS APPARENTLY SHIFTED GROUND SLIGHTLY FROM FIRM DECISION NOT TO ATTEND OAU MEETING TO MORE FLEXIBLE STANCE OF READINESS TO ATTEND IF SITUATION ON GROUND INANGOLA OR DIPLOMATIC PRESSURES ON GOT AS MEETING DATE NEARS APPEAR TO NECESSITATE GOT PRESENCE. EMBASSY NOTES THAT FONMIN CHATTI SAW BOURGUIBA MORNING OF DECEMBER 29, ACCORDING TO TUNIS PRESS, AND DISCUSSED THE
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UPCOMING OAU MEETING WITH HIM. PRESUMABLY, THEREFORE,

MOFA OFFICER'S STATEMENT TO US THE NEXT DAY MAY BE TAKEN
AS AUTHORITATIVE. ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL (TUNIS 7609)
THAT MOFA HAD TOLD EMBASSY THAT DECISION NOT RPT NOT TO
ATTEND OAU SUMMIT HAD BEEN TAKEN IN LIGHT OF RUPTURE
OF ETHIOPIAN/TUNISIAN RELATIONS, AND DID NOT REFLECT A
GOT ATTITUDE EITHER TOWARD ANGOLA SITUATION OR TOWARD
SUMMIT MEETING ITSELF.
KING

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